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THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the Rehearsal, *his Lies and Forgeries. Remarks on* Lesley's Divine Right of Tythes. *Of* Clergymen's *being Justices of the Peace. The* Country-man *going to turn Preacher.*

From **Saturday** January the 5th, to **Wednesday** January the 9th, 1706.

Country-m. WEll, Master, 'tis your Promise to make your *Cause* good against Mr. *Rehearsal.* And I am sure your *Cause* has been the Queens *Cause*, your Countries *Cause*, and every Honest Mans *Cause*; but the *Rehearsal* says you ought to lay down your Paper, because the *Church-side* has forborn.

Obs. How has he prov'd that? But, now I think on't, he, like some other Brothers of the *Quill*, don't think themselves obliged to give any Reasons for what they say. 'Tis true, *Mercurius Politicus* has laid down, but as no Law could oblige him to it, it was a Voluntary Act of his own. But Parson *Lesley* has brought a great Scandal on the *Church of England*, by saying those Papers were of the *Church-side*, when they were Written against our *Constitution*, against the *Revolution*, against the Queens Right to the *Crown*, and highly Reflecting on the best Set of *Bishops* that *England* ever yet knew. I can't tell who gave Mr. *Lesley* his Patent for *Lying* and *Libelling*, but he seems to stand on surer Ground than any of the *Scribblers*; and I may, with Confidence, affirm, That this is the greatest Affront given the *Queen* and *Government* that I ever yet saw in any Publick Print; to Pronounce those Papers of the *Church-side*, that are now under Prosecution by the *Government*.

I would fain know too, of what side Mr. *Lesley* Writes; if of the *Church-side*, then what he says is false; he has not laid down his Paper, and therefore the *Church-side* has not forborn. I must own it, that these pretended *Political* Papers are no ways Consistent with the Tranquility of any *Government*, especially when the Authors are such as Understand nothing of the *English Constitution*, but advance *Railery* instead *Reason*, and bitter Invectives against *Parties*, instead of good Instructions to the *Populace*. For consider the Course of Papers in this Reign, than which none has been more pester'd with the Poysons of the *Press*; and you'll find 'em either founded on *Faction*, carried on by *Subscribtion* of *Parties*, which former *Governments* would have Prosecuted as *Conspiracies*; or by *Mercenary Authors*, such as have been expell'd the *Universities* for Horrid Crimes, and *Mechanick Scribblers*, meer *Pitkins*, or worse, that have Cheated all Mankind, and retire to the *Press* for Bread.

I appeal to all Mankind that my Opinion was ever against these Practices, and I have several times Challenged all the *Scribblers* to lay down their Papers, and give sufficient Security to the *Government* never to Write more, and do at this time renew the same Challenge, after Mr. *Envoy* has Try'd his Cause; for I must let the People know the Merits of that *Popish Complaint*. All that I have Written has been in Defence of the *English Constitution*, the *Revolution*, the *Queens Right* to the *Throne* upon *Revolution Principles*, and the *Just Rights* and *Priviledges* of *Englishmen*; and this I have Prov'd from Law, and the Antient Customs and Usages of our Ancestors, in Opposition to those that have Wrote against *it*; and with a Sincere Intention for the Service of my *Queen* and *Country*; but the Honestest Intention has met with the worst Construction and Usage.

Country-m. But, Master, *Lesley* says, That since the Vote against the Danger of the *Church*, they have redoubl'd their Batteries against Her, that is, you and Mr. *Review* have done it.

Obs. Let Mr. *Review* defend himself. But for my part I never talk'd of the *Churches Danger*, or Erected Batteries against Her, either before or since the Votes of both Houses. I have indeed Batter'd the *High-Church* of *England*, and shall continue to do it, as long as such a *Lying*, *Malicious Priest* as *Lesley* is suffer'd to write against the *Revolution*, the Queens Right to the *Crown*, and the Peoples Right to their *Liberties*. All Mankind ought to worry *High-Church* as a Prodigious Unsizable Monster, begot by a *Priest*, and nourish'd by a *Tyrant*, with Hands instead of Feet, and Feet instead of Hands, with as many Heads as *Cerberus*, and more if occasion requires it.

About three Years ago the Priests of this *Church* were providing *Saddles*, *Bridles*, *Whips* and *Spurs*, in order to Lash and Ride the Populace, and, perhaps, some Dismal *Minister*, or Bulky *High-Church Patron*, took up such a Priest as *Lesley* for his Burden; but the Populace would not follow that Slavish Example, and at this *High-Church* is mad. They had form'd fine Schemes of *High-Church Government*, fine Impositions, insomuch that the whole Nation were to have been *High-Church Slaves*, as I shall show you by and by.

The Wiser sort of Men laugh'd at this Ridiculous Representation of a *Church*, and esteem'd it a meer *Ens Rationis*, a *Theo-political Chimæra*, contriv'd by *Knaves* to amuse and mislead *Fools*. 'Twas the Jest of all thinking Men: But however some of the *Faction* being in Power, Encourag'd and Abetted such Profligate Authors as that of the *Rehearsal*, *Heraclitus Ridens*, and other Libels, to write down the *English Constitution*, and the true *Church of England*, and at the same time Prosecuted the Poor *Observator* for writing against the *Papists*; and when Her Majesty had laid aside those Ministers, that, by an *Intemperate Heat*, and a Pretended *Zeal* for the *Church*, would have Ruin'd Her as they did some of Her Royal Predecessors, then they began to Remonstrate, and in their Memorials to insult Her Majesty, and threatned to *Rouse* their *Natures* against Her Royal Person and Ministry.

Country-m. Master, if ever any *High-Church Faction*, or any Body else, Home or Foreign Enemies shall *Rouse* their *Natures* against the Queen, I'll *Rouse* my *Pitch-fork* against them. We'll lay the Devils, I'll warrant it. But, Master, here's

High-

High-Church, Nonjuring, Bog-trotting, Lying Lesley curries Favour with the Queen, in the latter end of his Paper of *Saturday* last, *January* the 5th. and tells us, *That the* Church *is so far from apprehending any Danger from the Queen, that it is very visible, the Security and Preservation of the* Church, *from these Her implacable Enemies, lies chiefly, next, under God, in Her Majesties known Affection and Zeal for Her* MOTHER, *the* Church *of* England. What say you to this, Master?

Obs. I say this Priest is a Person of *Superlative Impudence*; he's hardn'd in it, because unpunish'd. By the *Church* of *England*, he means the *High-Church*, the *Popish Church* of *England*, that are for a *French Government*, and a *Welsh* Pretender; for a *Nonjuror* can mean nothing else by the *Church* of *England*; and to say that the Queen has a known Affection and Zeal for that *Church* is a *Crimen læsæ Majestatis*; Her Majesty, in frequent Admonitions from the Throne, of Peace and Union to Her People, has declared against this *Church*. This *Church* has Bullied Her Majesty, not only in their *Memorial*, but in several other Libels, so that as this Assertion is Malicious in it self, so it renders Her Majesty weak in having a Zeal for Her worst Enemies.

Now, 'tis plain that he means that *High-Church* of *England*, from his saying, that the *Church* is *MOTHER* of the Queen; for in a true *Protestant* Sense we esteem the Queen as *Mother* of the *Church*; this has been the Title given the Kings and Queens of *England*, from the *Reformation* till this time Mr. *Lesley* has been pleased to Rob Her Majesty of that Glorious Title; but the Reason of the thing is plain; by this means they would bring Her Majesty in Subjection to the *Church*, as being Her *Mother*; and what is this *Church*? Why, the *Nonjuring Clergy*; and so *Lesley*, highest Impudence! Stiles himself the Queens *Mother*.

Country-m. Well, Master, I think 'tis more Honourable and Safe for Her Majesty to be *Mother* to the Honest true *Low-Church* of *England*, than to be *Daughter* to the *High-Church*; ah, that's a Pestelent *Church*, and those *Churchmen* would make the *Laity* Slaves.

Obs. That has ever been the End and Design of these *Churchmen*; we need go no farther than *Lesley's* Writings for Proof. Here's a Book of his, call'd *An Essay concerning the Divine Right of Tythes*, where he tells you, Page 232. *That there were, in the small Kingdom of* Israel, *at one time* 38000 Levites, *and that* England *would require a great many more.*

Country-m. What Levites, Master, would he have us turn *Jews*? But, Master, methinks 38000 is a woundy Number of Black-Coats, and would he ha' more of 'em in *England*?

Obs. Yes, and all little enough to do the work he has cut out for 'em in the next Page, where he tells us, *That our* Clergy *are, and may be, as useful as any others in* Parliament, *in* Council, *and other great Affairs of the Nation, and those of lower Rank, as* Justices *of the* Peace, *and other Offices for the Distribution of* Justice.

Country-m. An't please your Worship, Mr. *Justice Lesley*, I had rather see 20 *Nonjuring* Priests Hovel-Polted, than one of 'em made a *Justice of the* Peace. We shall have fine times in *England* when we come to be Govern'd by *High-Church* Priests; what a pretty Sight will it be to see the *Jack-Daws* flutter down from the Pinnacles of the *Churches*, and perch on the Benches of Justice? We shall then have a deal of Cawing instead of Lawing; and then, Master, you know they may determine forthemselves the Differences about the Tenth *Egg*, and the Tenth *Apple*; then we shall be Priest-rid with a Witness.

Obs. It has ever been the Design of these *Church-men* to attempt gaining a Power to Oppress the *Laity*. And here, Honest *Country-man*, you may find Confirm'd, what, but a little time ago, I talked of the Misusage of our Young Gentry in the *Universities*? 'Tis the Interest of their *High-Flying Tutors* to breed 'em up in Ignorance, to send 'em out Unqualify'd, by which means they would put the Business of Council, of Parliament, and Justiciary into the Hands of the *Church-men*.

But, Mr. *Privy-Councellor*, Mr. *Chancellor*, Mr. *Senator*, Mr. *Justice Lesley*, if the *Universities* think fit to afford us Gentlemen not well enough Qualify'd for *Justices* of the *Peace*, we have enow Tradesmen that are better qualified for that Office, than any *Church-men* can be, tho' they never were at the *Universities*.

Country-m. I protest, Master, this *Political Whim* makes me Laugh. Does not a *Lay-Preacher* sound as well as a *Church-Justice*? I fancy the *Clergy* are minded to favour Power with the *Laicks*; or are they minded to make a *Motley Government*, by a Composition of *Temporal* and *Spiritual Ingredients*? I have had the Honour to look into the *House of Commons*, and methinks they look much better now, than possibly they can do, when they shall have a mixture of *Clergymen* among 'em; then the *Representative Body* of the *Nation* will look like a *Royston Crow*, Black and Grey, more like a *Representative* of the Orders of Black and Grey *Fryars*, than of the whole *Nation*. Master, 'tis my Country Opinion that this will not be in *England*, because I know it ought not to be in *England*.

Obs. Indeed, Honest *Country-man*, the *High-Clergy* have a long time been Paving their way to *Temporal Power*, according to the Example of the *Pope*, who is hardly Contented with his Power, tho' he holds the Keys of *Heaven* and *Earth* in his hand. We have pregnant Instances in the late *Elections*, what Endeavours have been used to gain Ground on the *Layty*. The *Clergy* have made Interest for *High-Church-Members*, Voted for 'em as *Freeholders*, by Virtue of their *Ecclesiastical Tenures*, and many of 'em have gotten themselves made *Honorary Freemen* of *Corporations*, Sworn *Burgesses* of *Corporations*, in order to gain some Points upon our *Constitution* for the Advancement of *High-Church*.

Country-m. Aye, Master, that was very foul Play, but I hope a Regulation of these things is nigh at hand. But, suppose I was to direct a Letter to one of these *Burgess Priests*, must I not direct for the *Burgess*, and not for the *Parson*, since the *Burgess* is the last Degree he took, and the last is generally the most Eminent? Master, I'll tell you what, if these *Priests*, at this rate, Entrench on the *Liberties* of the *Laity*, for my part I'll turn *Preacher*; there's as much Reason for one as the other. I think, Master, we have said enough of the *Priesthood* at this time; let us conclude our Evening Dialogue with a Good Health to the *True Church* of *England*.

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